

THIS LARGE and beautiful country, which contains the world's oldest desert, the Namib, is also one of the world's most sparsely populated. In fact, it is second only to Mongolia, with a population density of less than three persons per square kilometre. In spite of this scarcity of human settlement over large tracts, Namibia is home to an extraordinary ethnic diversity.

About 2 000 years ago, the original stone-age inhabitants, the San or Bushmen, were joined by other nomadic Khoisan groupings. The first to arrive were the Nama – who entered the southern parts of the country with large herds of sheep and goats. Nine hundred years later, the Damara appeared, settling in the grasslands of the central plateau. Perhaps as early as the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Bantu groupings known as the Ovambo and Kavango were already settled in northern Namibia. Certainly in the 17<sup>th</sup> century another Bantu people, the Herero, appeared from the north and migrated south where they contested Damaraland in a series of bloody wars against the Damara. Further south, the situation was complicated by the appearance in the 1860s of a new group of people known as the Rehoboth Basters, the descendents of white frontiersmen moving north from Cape Town and Khoi (Hottentot) women. They founded the short-lived Free Republic of Rehoboth in south central Namibia.

Although Europeans had periodically explored the cold and fog-ridden coastline of Namibia, it was only in the final decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century that Germany seriously staked a claim. In the classic colonial pattern, the administrators had been preceded by German military adventures in the region, which in turn had been preceded by missionaries of the German Rhenish Mission Society. The first governor of German South West Africa, a Major Theodor Leutwein, tried without success to apply the principle of 'colonialism without bloodshed'. Indeed, the final defeat of the Hereros, for example, could only be described as deliberate genocide.

The German occupation of the territory did not last long. After the First World War, the country was removed from its control and placed under South African administration in terms of a League of Nations mandate. However, South Africa refused to surrender the territory – even when requested to do so by the United Nations in the late 1940s. Indeed, South Africa treated South West Africa as its fifth province, providing white minority representation in South Africa's parliament, and even working out a plan for dividing the heterogeneous territory into racial segments along classic apartheid or separate development lines.

South Africa's ambitions were interrupted, and finally thwarted, by black Africa's general push for independence. The South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) and its military wing, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) became active in the 1960s. South African troops were sent to the north of the country. The disappearance of Portugal from Angola exacerbated the situation. SWAPO bases were immediately set up in southern Angola; and the stage was set for a long and bitter conflict between the two sides, as well as between South Africa and Angola and the Cuban forces that had been sent to Angola in an attempt to stabilise the situation there. Only in the late 1980s was a complicated solution to serious regional instability agreed upon. The South African military returned home, and Namibia became a fully independent country in February 1990.

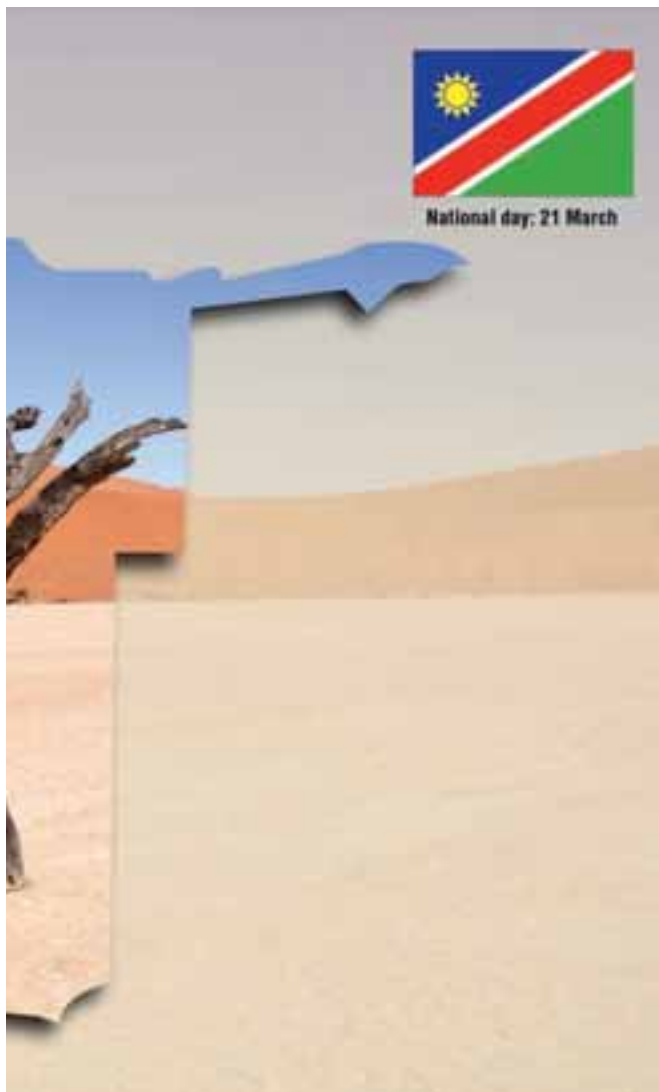
Significantly, one of the first acts of the new regime was to establish a Commission on Higher Education, the result of which was the establishment of the University of Namibia two years later. Although various centres for tertiary education and training had existed prior to independence, this was Namibia's first full-blown university.



#### KEY COUNTRY CONTEXT STATISTICS

Population:	1,991 million (2006)
GDP:	US\$3,242 (2006) per capita
Human Development Index (HDI):	0.650
Unemployment levels:	5.2% (2007 est.)
Key economic sectors:	Mining and Agriculture, Industry and Tourism
Principal Exports:	Granite Slabs, Tiles, Natural Health Products
HIV and Aids prevalence:	15.32% (2007 est.)
Gross Primary Enrolment Ratio:	107 (2006)
Gross Secondary Enrolment Ratio:	57 (2006)
Gross Tertiary Enrolment Ratio:	6 (2006)

Source: Country context data was obtained from a variety of sources: (CIA, 2008; SADC, 2008; UNAIDS, 2008; UNDP, 2008; UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2006)



## POLICY CONTEXT

The Ministry of Education has developed a 15 year strategic plan (2005/6 – 2020), namely the Education and Training Sector Improvement Programme (ETSIP), which is a comprehensive reformation of the education and training sector. As part of its ETSIP, the Namibian MoE has outlined the following strategic objectives:

- Strengthen institutional capacity of tertiary education;
- Enhance relevance and responsiveness of tertiary education;
- Improve the quality and effectiveness of tertiary education and training system;
- Improve equitable access to higher education and lifelong learning; and
- Mobilise financial resources and use them efficiently (Republic of Namibia Ministry of Education).

HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
The Higher Education Act, establishing the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE)	Provides mechanisms for making tertiary institutions more directly responsive to national needs.
The Teacher's Education Colleges Act	Allows colleges a greater degree of professional and managerial autonomy.
The Research, Science, and Technology Act	Provides mechanisms for stimulating and supporting research activities in all institutions and also for linking research to development.

Source: Republic of Namibia Ministry of Education

LIST OF STATUTORY BODIES IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
National Council for Higher Education	The objectives for the council are to advise the Minister of Education on policies both on the Minister's demand and on its own accord in questions regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A co-ordinated system of tertiary education;</li> <li>• Access with equity to tertiary education;</li> <li>• Quality assurance in tertiary education; and</li> <li>• Allocation of funds to public tertiary education.</li> </ul>
Advisory Council on Teacher Education and Training (ACTET)	The function of ACTET is to advise the MoE on policies, directions and standards for teacher education, as well as the governance and funding of colleges of education.

FUNDING DATA	
Public Expenditure on Education as a % of Gross National Income (GNI)	7.9%
% Education budget allocated to higher education	15% (2005-2006)
Loan/Grant scheme in place	Yes

Source: SARUA (2008) – "Towards a Common Future: Higher Education in the SADC Region"

## NATIONAL LEVEL OVERVIEW

The Namibian general education sector follows a 7-3-2 system comprising primary, junior secondary and senior secondary education, respectively. For a few children, primary education is preceded by two to three years of pre-primary education. However, early childhood development (ECD) and pre-primary programmes do not form an integral part of public education provision.

It is compulsory to attend ten years of schooling (World Bank Ed Stats, No date-c). Namibia's constitution makes provision for free, compulsory Basic Education from Grade 1 to Grade 10 or 16 years of age, whichever comes first (Clegg & Van Graan, 2006).

There is one state university, the University of Namibia.

TYPE OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION	NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS
Publicly funded universities	1
Publicly funded HE institutions and colleges	2
Privately funded HE institutions	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>

Source: Namibia MoE questionnaire response

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

KEY INDICATORS	INDICATORS FOR NAMIBIA
R&D Intensity [The ratio of Gross expenditure on R&D (GERD) to Gross Domestic Product (GDP)]	Not available
ISI Output (Number of papers published in the 7500+ journals of the ISI Web of Science)	1990-1995: 197 1996-2001: 275 2002-2007: 423

Source: SARUA (2008) – CREST report

## LIST OF PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN NAMIBIA

UNIVERSITIES IN NAMIBIA	WEBSITE
University of Namibia	<a href="http://www.unam.na">www.unam.na</a>

## UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA

THE UNIVERSITY began in August 1992. Namibia's President, Dr Sam Nujoma (who was also the founding Chancellor of the university) stated his vision for the institution, describing it as 'a centre of higher learning served by dedicated men and women of quality, and producing graduates to uplift the standards of living of the Namibian people.'

Seven faculties deliver the university's diverse academic programmes: Agriculture and Natural Resources, Economics and Management Science, Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, Law, Medical and Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Science. To reach into the far corners of a big country, the university (with its main campus in Windhoek) has developed three satellite-campuses and eight regional centres. The main satellite is at Oshakati in the heavily populated north. Close to the northern campus is the Ogongo Agricultural Campus (which houses the university's Department of Crop Science); while the Neudamm Agricultural Campus, some 40 kilometres from Windhoek, serves the central highland region.

All these facilities are staffed by 340 academic and research staff, 42 percent of which are female, and 28 percent of whom have doctoral degrees.

Since about half the Namibian population depends for its livelihood on subsistence agriculture, the university focus on agricultural studies is appropriate. Namibia is also the only country in the world specifically to address conservation and natural resource issues in its Constitution. Here, too, the university's emphasis on issues relating to the protection and management of natural resources indicates an institution at least partially in tune with the national development agenda.

Regional and international collaboration is also high on the University of Namibia's priorities. Relationships with several South African universities exist, as with other SADC higher education institutions in Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya and Malawi. Linkages have also been established with universities in the USA, Canada, Israel, Germany, Finland and Norway.

## FACTS AND FIGURES AT A GLANCE<sup>47</sup>

The University of Namibia is predominantly a contact institution, with 33% of the total number of students receiving distance-based tuition. Many of the students who attend the university are studying on a full-time basis. There are 5,824 full-time students compared to 435 students who are studying part-time. Although the vast majority of the students enrolled at the University are Namibian nationals, the university does cater for a number of foreign students. A total of 909 students from other countries attend the institution, 700 of whom are from countries within the SADC region and 209 from other countries.

<sup>47</sup> All data presented in this section is headcount data.

**TABLE 1 UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA: SUMMARY OF ENROLMENT NUMBERS (ACTUAL DATA, 2007)**

MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS (HEADCOUNT)	NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED PER LEVEL OF STUDY				
		UNDER-GRADUATE DEGREE/ DIPLOMA	POST-GRADUATE DEGREE/ DIPLOMA	MASTERS DEGREE	DOCTORAL DEGREE	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS (SHORT COURSES, CERTIFICATES ETC)
Science, Engineering & Technology	903	869	0	32	1	1
Business, Management & Law	2,382	1,864	37	88	0	393
Humanities and Social Sciences	1,928	1,527	39	60	11	291
Health Sciences	775	63	21	25	8	658
Agriculture and Natural Resources	205	201	0	2	2	0
UNAM Foundation Programme	66	0	0	0	0	66
Centre for External Studies	2,119	881	93	0	0	1,145
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>8,378</b>	<b>5,405</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2,554</b>

Source: University of Namibia questionnaire response

**TABLE 2 UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA: ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH STAFF (ACTUAL DATA, 2007)**

MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	TOTAL NUMBER (HEADCOUNT)
Science, Engineering & Technology	116
Business, Management & Law	42
Humanities and Social Sciences	117
Health Sciences	38
Other (Centre for External Studies and Library)	27
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>340</b>

Source: University of Namibia questionnaire response



Contact Details: URL: [www.unam.na](http://www.unam.na), Physical Address: 340 Mandume Ndemufayo Ave, Pioneerspark, Windhoek, Telephone: (+264-61) 206 3111